

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ATT/2003-0176

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-14 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-14 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Russell, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,635, issued November 12, 2002, hereinafter referred to as "Russell"). In response, Applicants herein amend independent claim 1 and respectfully traverse the rejection.

Russell teaches identification and location of fiber optic cables. In order to identify a fiber optic cable a beam of polarized light is caused to pass down the cable to a first site (A) at which an electromagnetic field is applied to the cable (10). (See Russell, Abstract.) The electromagnetic field (24) traverses the cable (10) in an essentially transverse direction. (See *Id.*) This results in a variation in the polarization of the light, which can then be detected by a polarization discriminator (20) at a second site (B), thereby to identify the cable. (See *Id.*)

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Russell fails to teach or suggest a method for identifying an optical fiber, comprising imparting mechanically a time-varying modulation onto an optical signal propagating in said optical fiber, as positively claimed by the Applicants. Specifically, Applicants' amended independent claim 1 positively recites:

1. A method for identifying an optical fiber, comprising:
imparting mechanically a time-varying modulation onto an optical signal propagating in said optical fiber; and
detecting the presence of said imparted time-varying modulation to identify said optical fiber;
wherein said imparting and detecting do not interrupt the propagation of said optical signal along said optical fiber. (Emphasis added).

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In an exemplary embodiment, Applicants' invention teaches a method for identifying an optical fiber, comprising imparting mechanically a time-varying modulation onto an optical signal propagating in said optical fiber. A time-varying modulation can be imparted mechanically, for example, by a vibrating piston. (See Applicants' specification, pg. 9, ll. 5-32.) However, the modulating device may be any such device capable of providing a mechanical vibration or biasing curvature of the fiber. (See Applicants' specification, pg. 8, ll. 27-28.)

In contrast, Russell teaches identification of fiber optic cables using an electromagnetic field. (See Russell, Abstract.) Russell specifically teaches that the electromagnetic field is emitted from an antenna or antenna array. (See Russell, col. 3, ll. 51-64.) Applicants' invention teaches identification of optical fiber comprising imparting mechanically a time-varying modulation onto an optical signal propagating in said optical fiber. As such, Russell clearly fails to anticipate Applicants' invention as positively claimed in Applicants' amended independent claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-14 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and recite additional limitation. As such, and for the exact same reason set forth above, the Applicants submit that claims 2-14 are also not anticipated by the teachings of Russell. Therefore, the Applicants submit that claims 2-14, as they now stand, fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder.

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CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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